



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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8 JANUARY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. South Vietnam

Premier Huong was expecting to issue a communiqué on a civilian-military détente today, if no further differences with the military were encountered. No statement has been forthcoming, however.

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There has been a new flurry of reports that Khanh is plotting a coup, possibly with Buddhist support, and that other officers are plotting against Khanh. Taylor comments that while these are unconfirmed, there could be some unpleasant surprises this weekend.

2. Congo

President Kasavubu, whose attitude toward recent developments has not been clear, has expressed strong support for Tshombé's policies. Kasavubu rejected a suggestion that Tshombé's government be broadened. He brushed off a recommendation that South African mercenaries be replaced, saying he could not care less where they came from. Tshombé, meanwhile, plans to travel to Brussels on 12 or 13 January.

3. South Korea

Seoul has received a request from Saigon for South Korean troops, including an infantry battalion, some of whom might be slated for combat assignments. Ambassador Brown notes that when this question is debated in the National Assembly, it may cause speculation that the US is mobilizing third country combat forces for South Vietnam.

4. Arab States

The prime ministers of the Arab states will begin a three-day meeting in Cairo tomorrow to consider further measures to build up the Arab armed forces. Egypt will use the occasion to put more pressure on Jordan to buy Soviet MIG aircraft instead of Western models.

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